



Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Herbert A. Pollard II, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 23, 2016

TO: Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel, Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup, and Interested Persons

FROM: Dr. Kit Dahl, Staff Officer for the Fishery Ecosystem Plan

SUBJECT: September Council Meeting

The Council meets September 15-20, 2016, at the Riverside Hotel in Boise, Idaho. The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) and Ad Hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) will meet Tuesday and Wednesday, September 13-14. The EAS will be in the Tamarack Room and the EWG will be in the Emerald Room. The meetings begin at 9 a.m. each day but on Tuesday both committees are scheduled to attend the Scientific and Statistical Committee Ecosystem Subcommittee (SSCES) joint meeting with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) Team first thing in the morning. The SSCES meets in the Cinnabar Room. You will then convene your regular meetings after lunch. Two ecosystem topics are on the Council agenda. I have also included the briefing materials for Agenda Item G.6, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning. Summaries of these topics follow.

D.1 Fishery Ecosystem Plan Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative

The Council is scheduled to make final recommendations on changes to the ecosystem indicators to be included in the 2017 State of the California Current Ecosystem Report. As originally conceived, this Initiative was expected to conclude with recommendations made at this meeting. The EWG, however, has introduced the idea of tailoring the contents of the Annual Report from year to year to the particular actions the Council will be considering. This suggests a more open-ended process for considering changes to the contents of the Annual Report. The EAS and EWG may want to develop more detailed recommendations on the procedures entailed in any ongoing activity of this nature.

Council advisory bodies have been encouraged to provide reports from the perspective of their particular areas of responsibility. Thus far, however, aside from the EAS and EWG, only the Highly Migratory Species Management Team and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel have drafted reports (which are included in your briefing materials). Other advisory bodies have this on their agendas for September and may submit reports at this meeting, but it is unlikely that the EAS or EWG will have an opportunity to review these reports before finalizing their own reports.

As noted above, the SSCES will be meeting with members of the NMFS West Coast Science Centers' IEA Team to review indicators and develop recommendations that will likely be reflected in a full SSC report to the Council. This meeting occurs over two days, Monday, September 12 and Tuesday, September 13. I am including the meeting agenda with your briefing materials. In addition to the reference in your committee agendas to attending this meeting on Tuesday morning, there is the opportunity to arrive early on Monday to attend at least part of the meeting on that day. The EWG drafted a report that is included in your briefing materials essentially summarizes work to date on this initiative. This would likely be a starting point for considering recommendations to the Council on this matter.

D.2 Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap

NMFS Policy Directive 01-120 describes the agency's implementation of ecosystem-based fishery management (EBFM). As a follow-up to this Policy Directive, NMFS has published a draft EBFM Roadmap and is seeking comment on it. The Roadmap spells out the implementation process over the next five years, including how this policy will be implemented regionally. Ms. Heather Sagar from NMFS will attend the September Council meeting to brief both the Council and various advisory bodies on Wednesday and Thursday. As noted in your agendas, the EAS and EWG will meet together at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday for this briefing.

Your agendas also afford time to begin considering future Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP) initiatives the Council may take up. The FEP describes a periodic process whereby each March the Council decides whether to take on a new initiative in the coming year, and in odd years considers adding new initiatives to the list. The current list of initiatives may be found at [http://www.pcouncil.org/ecosystem-based-management/fishery-ecosystem-plan-initiatives/.](http://www.pcouncil.org/ecosystem-based-management/fishery-ecosystem-plan-initiatives/)) Both of these tasks will be up for discussion in March 2017.

To help you keep abreast of topics at future Council meetings, I am also including the materials for Agenda Item G.6, Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning.

Paper copies of referenced briefing materials are enclosed. You may obtain electronic copies of all the meeting materials on our website at [http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/.](http://www.pcouncil.org/council-operations/briefing-books/) We also post supplemental briefing materials on our website as they become available after distribution of the advanced briefing book.

Fun fact: Boise is the Idaho state capital and the statehouse is geothermally heated from underground hot springs. If you have a chance, downtown is definitely worth visiting and can be reached on foot from our hotel, partway on the Boise River Greenbelt, 25 miles of tree-lined pathways along the river.

As always, thank you for your service to the Council process.

KRD:kma

Enclosures:

1. Agenda Item A.5: Council Meeting Agenda

2. Agenda Item D.1: Fishery Ecosystem Plan Coordinated Ecosystem Indicator Review Initiative
3. Agenda Item D.2: Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management Roadmap
4. Agenda Item G.6: Future Council Meeting Agenda and Workload Planning
5. EAS and EWG Meeting Agendas
6. SSCES Agenda
7. Hotel-related Information
8. Council Roster

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